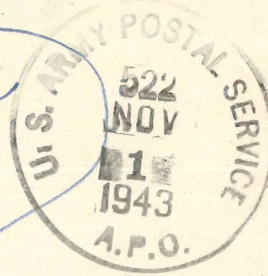


Lt. Frank W. Loops, O-667527
432 Sqdn., 17th Bomb. Gp.
A.P.O. 520, ~~Postmaster~~ N.Y.C.

Mama would
like all you have but this
right away
one especially



Mr. Charles E. Loops
5418-13th St., N.W.
Washington, D.C.

Frank W. Loops

U.S.A.

432 Sqn., 17th Bomb. Gp.
A.P.O. 520, 90 Postmaster N.Y.C.
October 30, 1943

Dear Daddy,-

Did you think I had slipped up on your birthday, and wasn't going to write you a letter? I've been meaning to write it all along but this "long range" forecasting on mail deliveries makes it hard to judge. Some times you seem to get my letters so quickly, and other times no;- so I just never know what to plan on. Anyhow, here's hoping I make it in time!

Happy Birthday - and the very best of everything to you! Best wishes for many more to come. - If this is late - it will only be that much more sincere - so there!

Gee, looking back - I can see the different ways and places I've been in to wish you the best on Nov. 12th! - The first year I was in the Army I remember sweating out a phone call from Biloxi in a telephone booth. And last year

2.

I had to sort of sneak it in between the time I got down from night flying and bed time. - This year, the phone is too far away - but here's the next best. I've already been over seas for more than six months so the chances are that next year I might be right there with you again in the states - preferably - helping you hold your "uppers" in while you blow out the candles! And incidentally helping you to eat your ice-cream! -

I ran into town for a few minutes this afternoon and bought a couple of "bill folds" - a la Arabic. - These, I will send the first opportunity and you are to have one. Of course - knowing the contempt you have for a pocket book, you won't use it, for it isn't made for our size dollar bills - But anyway - it's soft, and full of lots of pockets - so maybe you can stick all your numerous notes & stuff (I won't say "junk") in it, including that small bit of lead pencil you persist in carrying! - Maybe you can sorta consolidate your odds & ends! But if not - chuck it in a drawer and forget

it, for I wouldn't have it upset your "flying" system for the world!

We had a bit of rain again today - and what a mess. - I suppose you can, but I know I never really appreciated just what "pavement" meant before. - Golly - the more you slesh around the more mud you pick up on your shoes until finally each shoe must weigh twenty pounds! - Guess when the real rainy season comes, I'll have to dig out my "leggies" but I never thought it would come to that. Our jeeps are marvelous cars. - They run over all sorts of terrain and the mud while they skid and slesh, so far hasn't fagged them. - We just push the extra gear (it looks like a miniature gear shift lever) into "four wheel drive", and away you go, out of any mud hole! After all the holes Henry & I have been stuck in, I know I'll just have to have me a jeep just for running around the country when I go "to the country".

Before I forget it. - If you all ordered, can get an October issue of "Flying" it has several good pictures of our type ship.

4! Pictures that probably I couldn't even get, and being as how I can't mail any photos of ours - it will give you a good chance to see close - just what we fly. - It is an anniversary number of the "Army Air Forces".

It's most 10 o'clock now - so I'm going to sign off for now. I have to get up in the morning and "ferry" a ship to some town or other. - That is, if I can get up enough speed to lift her out of the mud! - Anyway, it's to bed for me now, and I'll finish this tomorrow. O.K.? O.K.!

- You'd hardly know it on this, but this is tomorrow now! - Sunday the 31st.

Couldn't set on my trip this morning as the general consensus of opinion say the runway is too muddy. - I suppose it could be used if absolutely necessary. - but what is the need of messing it up? - Besides, have you ever seen how helpless a plane looks, stuck up to the hubs, both engines roaring, and nothing happening? -

So today is Halloween! - Guess I'll have to go around ringing door bells

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the Arabs don't have, or instead of eating beans - get a bean shooter and shooting the beans at the glass-less windows a few of them have! - I can't dress up in a sheet to scare them, this year, cause then - instead of being a ghost I would only look like another ?! Arab! -

- Guess we will have to confine our fun to pulling up each others tent pegs and watching the tents collapse around the occupants ears! ~~to~~ Anything on the harmless side!

Built me a stove yesterday, so now I can have hot water to shave in. - It's not much, but it works. - all I did was to take a can, punch it full of holes, fill it half way with dirt, and when I want a fire, I throw a cupful of gas on it (the dirt in the can) and light it! It heats water pretty fast, and you can't say it is hard to use. Gasoline is a wonderful thing, even if you can't get much of it!

The brownies are still going strong,

even if a good size hole is knocked in
 em! - They were a slight bit moldy - but
 th. not enough to hurt. Don't see how they
 could be, the way they were packed - it must
 have been the moisture in them themselves.
 Maybe in the future it would be best
 to let them dry out before packing them.
 It would make them a bit hard maybe,
 but it should keep the mold off, and that's
 more important. - The heck with how
 hard they are! Besides - hard things are
 supposed to be good for your teeth,
 aren't they? -

Got some letters the last few days.
 One from Ma & several from Sister, Fred &
 Brother. - Bob's description of Africa
 was good and we are all having a lot
 of fun with those from Texas with
 it. - People from Texas are hard to down
 and they seem at a loss for a come-back
 for it! -

Glad your trip to Lynchburg was
 so enjoyable. It was a nice time of the
 year to go to the mountains with all

-8-
looked at. Guess being as how today
is Sunday I'd better knock off this
letter and open the papers. With colored
comics & all it might make it really
seem like Sunday.

Well, once more - let me wish you
a happy birthday and many more to come.
Only thing is, don't eat too much ice cream
& cake!

Love,
Frank

-P.S. Hey folks,-

whenever you want to send stuff,
you can always send just general snacks
such as peanuts, soups, crackers, candy
and these "nestle" tidbits or whatever
they are called don't go bad either! - Just
so it's eatable you don't have to worry
about this end! - In fact, not knowing
what's on the way, you can start one of
said boxes along if you want to! Ahem.

F.